



METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

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F A C T S H E E T

ABOUT THE MINORITY CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Minority Citizens Advisory Committee (MCAC) ensures that the views and needs of minority communities are adequately reflected in policies of the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC). The committee, which has been in existence since 1975, includes representatives from the region's African American, Asian, Hispanic and Native American communities, as well as individuals who are from, or work with, low-income communities.

The goal of the committee is to involve these historically under-represented communities in the transportation planning process overseen by MTC, the regional transportation planning and financing agency for the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area. The committee's work is done by:

- providing formal input on decisions and actions pending before the Commission;
- actively and independently researching new initiatives that the committee believes might be relevant to the Commission; and
- receiving updates from staff on transportation-related activities in the Bay Area.

MCAC members have the opportunity to discuss concerns with MTC staff working on studies, projects and programming efforts. The group's focus also includes assisting MTC with public outreach to minority and low-income communities as well as with helping improve the coverage of transportation issues in minority press. MTC's summer internship program for high school students is the direct result of the committee's assistance in designing a program to introduce high school students to potential careers.

MCAC members are appointed by MTC Commissioners for two-year terms, and are expected to attend their monthly committee meetings, and to maintain an ongoing engagement with organizations and individuals who make up their constituency. In addition, members are encouraged to communicate with their appointing Commissioner(s) and to present their committee's recommendations to the Commission and/or its committees, as appropriate.

The five most populous counties in the Bay Area (Alameda, Contra Costa, San Francisco, San Mateo and Santa Clara counties) each have three seats on the MCAC: one for an individual of African American/Black background, one for an individual of Asian background, and one for an individual who is Latino/Hispanic. The four smaller counties in the region (Marin, Napa, Solano and Sonoma counties) each have two seats on the advisory panel; these members are either of African American/Black, Asian or Hispanic/Latino descent. Members are selected by the Commissioner(s) representing each county. One additional at-large advisor is of Native American descent, plus two at-large advisors are from or serve low-income communities; these positions are appointed by the Commission chair and vice chair.

Committee members receive a stipend for attendance at the monthly meetings, held at MTC's offices in Oakland on the second Tuesday of the month, from 3:30 p.m. to approximately 5:30 p.m. All meetings are open to the public.

For more information, contact MTC Public Information Officer Catalina Alvarado at 510.464.7783 or by e-mail at calvarado@mtc.ca.gov.

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